



The Friends of
Thringstone

‘Working to improve our village’

Chairman: Nita Pearson

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**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5th May 2011 AT THRINGSTONE HOUSE
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Nita Pearson, Janet Stevenson, Roy Hill, Brenda Simpson, Ann Petty, Bernard Lee, Ray Neal, Lorraine Whitehurst, Tam Bream, Geoff Walker, Aileen Smith, Brenda Simpson, Lorraine Whitehurst, Ron Hill
Apologies, Sue Rowbottom, David Stevenson, Ray Woodward, Pam Clayfield, Rowena Summers, Dave and Julie Everitt, Lindsay Weaver, Mike King, Ruth Crockett, Sandie Newton, Pam Porter, Leon Spence, Lindsay Weaver

Matters for discussion

Litter collection reporting - We have updated the Litter Action UK site with all sorts of information, and need to keep this up to date. Litter Action UK report to central government on the value of volunteers on keeping the streets free of litter, and it serves a purpose for FoT to be involved in the event of funding bids for the future. Rowena Summers has offered to keep this site up to date with numbers of bags picked up weekly, and would like people to send details to her on 450735 or on bracken29@msn.com so that she can ensure things are correctly recorded. She intends to update the site weekly, at a weekend.

We are taking it as read that Nita picks up a bag per week, Pam Porter and her team pick up 2, Ron Hill picks up 1, Roy Hill picks up one and Tam picks up one. Members who pick up litter other than these are asked to contact Rowena with details please and those listed, should they pick up more, should also tell Rowena if possible, please. We don't need the site to be 100% accurate, but it would be useful if it were as accurate as possible.

Worldwide volunteering site - We are now connected to this site (see below) which again will be useful in funding bids. In order to get Thringstone on the list, Nita and Rowena have both filled in a form on line indicating their intention to volunteer during this year. For everybody from the village who registers on



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footprints

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this site, it adds an extra point to Thringstone, which currently sits alongside national capitals as being a place where volunteering takes place. If possible, members with computers are encouraged to log onto http://www.eyv2011.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=81 and enter in your details. Under town put Thringstone. Putting Thringstone, Coalville then registers Coalville, not Thringstone. You will then add an extra point to Thringstone, which will increase the totals which appear on <http://www.eyv2011.eu/volunteering-commitments> By doing this, you are helping promote Thringstone and helping us with future funding bids. Please help if you can.

Graveyard project - There are 6 graves, mentioned in our prospective new booklet, of people who committed suicide. So as not to offend anybody, it was agreed that Nita write to the Coalville Times letters page and explain we are doing a booklet, and if anybody had someone buried in St Andrew's graveyard, they should contact us. That may mean a lot of calls from people who are not listed, but is a way of trying to ensure that nobody is offended.

AGM – it was agreed not to hold the AGM at Ravenstone, but stick to the community centre. Ann or Nita will contact the lady at Ravenstone almshouses who said we can have a tour round and arrange this for some other time. We will not be having a BBQ at the AGM, but will try to provide some snacks for a social evening after the meeting.

Chairman's report May 2011

Letters received

- Letter from **Voluntary Action Leics.** asking us to check the enclosed directory of groups, but there was no directory enclosed, only a training programme. Emailed and asked for the correct information to be resent.

Emails received

- From RCC asking for details for our group to be listed in a **Green Communities Directory** being launched in May. Provided details as requested.
- From NWLDC asking us to help advertise their next **Well Families Clinic** at Thringstone Members Club. Added into newsletter – 28th June, 2.30-5pm.
- From **BBC** about archive film of Leicester and programme to be put together by Melvyn Bragg later in the year. Asked us if we want to be involved. Couldn't attend initial meeting in Leicester but asked to be kept informed.
- Several from Paul Conneally, initially through facebook, who is writing a booklet on the **Wordsworth Trail**, which will encompass Whitwick and Thringstone. Wants a meeting at some stage to discuss further. Booklet on trail being launched at Snibston on 14th May.
- From Liz Blood from the **Leicestershire War Memorials Project** asking for us to check the entries for St Andrew's and the Roll of Honour at Thringstone House Community Centre, and asking for further information which was supplied. Additional information sourced from St Andrew's graveyard and sent through.

Emails sent

- Asking for help with **storage** of FoT stuff and for plants for the plant stall. Thanks to Janet for helping with this.
- To Vicar asking about **graveyard booklet** text which is approved. He wants a plan of the churchyard included with the text and photos. Photos taken, and most graves found. Will be ongoing project to plot these on a map of the churchyard, when one can be provided. Ann is going to see what she has on file.
- To Leicester City Football nominating the group for consideration for their **discount ticket scheme** for voluntary groups who wish to promote themselves to a wider audience, subsequent email to members asking interest. No interest at all, which is a shame.
- To **councillors** regarding overflowing rubbish bins on L'bro Road and about missing Bishopdale street signage and to various parties about fires in Grace Dieu woodland.
- To guy who runs a **Litter Heroes** site. He is so impressed with our work that he has added us to the Litter Heroes website map.
- Various emails around committee and others regarding **ASB and fires** in the village.



- Email to members about George and Dragon putting together a **petanque team** from Wednesday 27th April, and seeking new members, plus email from Police about changes with the **police force** in the county. Also details sent round of **Under 13s football team** starting on Homestead Road every Tuesday at 6.30pm.
- Joined FoT to **European Year of Volunteering** and submitted article on the work of the group. This will give us a higher profile and will possibly help towards securing funding from a wider pot in the future. Also listed Thringstone as taking part in **Worldwide volunteering**.

Promotion

- **Scarecrow event and centenary event** advertised in April Communities Cutting Carbon newsletter.
- **Litter pick and scarecrow event** advertised on Community Matters website.
- Updated **Litter Action UK** page for group by adding photos and link to last newsletter and expanding on group information.
- Sent **news item** to Leics. Mercury, CVTimes, Lbro Echo and Hermitage FM on the group having collected 500 bags of litter since our inception, in addition to garage doors, baths, kids' toys etc. which we always find in the woods. Also posted similar message on twitter, facebook and completed news item and put photo on Thringstone's Leicestershire Villages site. Printed in CVTimes and Echo of 22nd April.
- Posted photograph of the village sign near Whitwick Moor as the photograph for FoT on **twitter**. Subsequently attracted 2 new followers, one in Cambridge and another in Suffolk. Nita has agreed to put Grace Dieu events onto our facebook and twitter pages for them, as they have no site of their own.

Other

- We failed to win the **Partnership and Community Category** at the NWLDC's Green Footprint Awards in April, but are pleased that the Mural Project on Henson's Lane won the Children and Young People's category, keeping a focus on the successes of the village as a whole. Put photo of the project and news item on Thringstone's Leicestershire Villages site.
- Understand that the **Miner's Gala at Snibston** will be running in 2011, on a date as yet to be decided, in September.
- Letters to various **commercial outlets** asking for free tickets as prizes for the scarecrow event. No positive replies.



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- Was asked by a lady in Birmingham moving to Glebe Road to provide information on where to stable and graze her **horses**. Tam helped with this. Thanks.
- Discussions with Rev Burgess over **400th centenary celebrations of St James bible** planned for October and an FoT input in the form of a display board showing how the village might have been in 1611.
- Went with Ray Neal to look at dumping of drinks cans etc. off **Grace Dieu Road** and removed these
- Completed and returned questionnaire to LCC on **Leicestershire Rural Framework** consultation 2011-2014
- Completed **newsletter** and organized paid advert from FOGDP.
- Wrote letter to **Local Business Network** confirming what we are doing with their £250 sponsorship.

Treasurer's report –Lis Muller

APRIL FIGURES: REPORT FOR MAY MEETING

Funds held 1st of month (bank + petty cash + float)	£2,570.84		
Income		expenditure	
Membership	£ 10.50	admin (photocopying)	£ 6.24
raffle income	£ 14.00	plants	£ 122.00
total income	£ 24.50	total exp	£ 6.24
		Total funds	£ 2,467.10

- You will see that there was not a lot of money activity in April!
- The total funds held at the beginning of the FoT year (ie 1/6/10) were £1953.84.
- Full figures for the year should be available at the AGM – despite being only two days after the year end. The figures presented at that meeting will obviously still be subject to checking by the independent examiner, David Stevenson

Publications report April 2011

There have been no sales this month. It was confirmed that DVD and photo sales count as publications.

Web report – John Smith

John Smith was not at the meeting. He was working on updating the site.

Art and Community Report April 2011

Pam Clayfield was not at the meeting so Nita announced the following events:

- 12th May to 13th May 2011 **Hermitage Leisure Centre Whitwick - International Tool Auction** From 7am to 11pm on Thursday 12th and 7am to 4pm on Friday 13th May. For more details contact the Centre on 01530 811215



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- 9th May to 14th May 2011 '**Annie Warbucks**' at **Thringstone Community Centre**
Thringstone Pantomime and Drama Society present this sequel to 'Annie' at 7.30pm nightly (Saturday Matinee at 2.15pm). Monday to Thursday £7 adults £6 children and concessions. Friday and Saturday evening and matinee £8 adults, £7 children. For further details contact 01530 222337.
- **St Andrew's notices** Sunday 12th June at 10.am "Open Church on Sunday". Approximately half an hour socialising with a cup of tea/coffee; then half an hour of devotion led by lay-members. Please come and join us and give us your reactions.
- **Co-operative Women's Guild** 7.30pm-9.30pm the last Wednesday of each month at the Thringstone House Community Centre. Details from Pam Clayfield or the Centre.
- **Band and auction** - Saturday 14th May – Whitwick Sports and Social, Market Place, Whitwick. **Fund raiser for Whitwick Action Group** to help employ legal help to continue the fight to save the Green Wedges. Live band, auction, raffle and finger buffet. Tickets £7 adults, £5 children. WAG are looking for sponsorship and raffle prizes for this and future fund raising events.

If you cannot go but would like to support the work of this group, please give a donation to Sue Colledge at the florists in Whitwick

- **Osgathorpe Open Gardens Weekend** – 25 and 26 June. There will be 12-15 gardens, and an arts trail walk

History report for meeting 5th May 2011 - Ann Petty Migration Project

Ann has continued to meet with the ladies helping with the editing of the Migration Project film, and other meetings are to be arranged to finish off the work.

Nita received an email from Cynthia Brown who is monitoring and evaluating the project, asking what FoT and Ann and Nita as individuals had gained from working on the project, what the interviewees may have gained and what could be improved upon. Nita has replied to this.

Village Voices

Nita has indicated FoT's interest in being part of this project, which is being run by people at Leicester University in conjunction with East Midlands Oral History Archive. The idea is to find out what is a Leicestershire accent, and explore aspects of local accents. This will be part of a wider study of the East Midlands, and the project will run from June 2011 to January 2012. The idea is for people of all ages to say certain words so local dialects can be recorded. The initial meeting is at a time and date (possibly 18th June) that Nita can't attend, but we have asked to be kept informed.



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Ashby Museum

Chris Tandy from Ashby History Society is putting on a Stuart History Day on 14th May, with tickets at £22 which includes refreshments and lunch. Anybody who is interested should contact Chris on 415654.

St Andrew's display for 400 years of St James Bible

Ann will talk to the vicar about putting together a display for this event at St Andrew's in October. We have various plans that show the village after that time, and will see what can be sourced to represent the group and the village.

Heritage Weekend 23 and 24 July

In addition to the Heritage Event FoT are putting together at the George and Dragon from 12 noon – 5pm on 23rd, Grace Dieu Priory are having an event at the Priory from 12-5pm both days, at which refreshments and displays will be available

Information about both groups' working on this heritage weekend have been forwarded to NWLDC who are putting together details on what is available within the district.

Councillors' Report- Ray Woodward

As the election for councillors to the District Council takes place on the same date as this meeting, I along with others standing for election, are unable to make this meeting.

The case work goes on as David and I are still the members for Thringstone until the 5th of May.

The Waldrum site (Gracedieu Road) has now received outline planning permission for a dozen houses and now the developer needs to submit the detail of the development.

We would like to thank the committee and the members for their tolerance during the presentation of the past reports and hope that whoever is chosen to represent the Thringstone ward will continue to report to every meeting.

Personally, I would like to thank everyone for the reception of my input to the meetings during my term as councillor for the Thringstone ward. Although I will not be your councillor after the election, I will continue to attend the meetings as an ordinary member in the future.

County Council - The pot hole around the drain outside 125 Loughborough Road has now been repaired following a complaint registered by Nita with the County Councillor, Tony Gillard.

Planning - There are various rumours about the purchase of the Rose and Crown by the Co-op, but Dave Everitt has made a search at the council offices, and there are no registered planning applications for the Rose and Crown site at present.

Police report

No information was received from the police, but the local crime statistics website gives the following for the previous 4 weeks;

Burglaries 2 – 1 in Swallowdale, 1 in Brook Lane

Anti Social Behaviour 7 – 1 Main St, 1 Talbot St, 2 Loughborough Road, 3 Henson's Lane

Robbery 0

Vehicle Crime 1- Henson's Lane

Violent Crime 1- Henson's Lane

Other 9 – 1 Henson's Lane, 4 Clover Place, 2 Melrose Road, 1 Main St, 1 The Green

The police have been seen in the woods in the last 2 days inspecting the numerous fire sites. It is not known what action is being taken and the police are being encouraged to tell the group of their successes.

Concern is registered about the fire raising incidents as everywhere is so dry at the moment.

There has been a fire on 5th May in Swannymote woods, and another large one near Cademan woods at the weekend just gone. Most days, there are fires in some parts of the woods.

From Previous minutes

Gardening update



Bernard and Ray have spent £122 on shrubs and have planted these. The balance of the money available from the local business network sponsorship is being kept for plants later in the year.

Centenary Celebrations and Scarecrow event.

Tam gave an update on the **scarecrow event** which is part of the Community Centre Centenary celebrations. He will deliver the bags of straw soon and is working with Nita on the list of people who want to take part. He is visiting one person to talk to them personally today. Nita agreed to run off the 'how to make a scarecrow list,' so that Tam can give this out when he takes the straw to people.

We have obtained a grant of £500 from the County Council following a funding bid put together, which means that we are now able to purchase prizes and pay for other things, such as trophies, to make the event a success.

Lorraine agreed that FoT can put up posters advertising their sponsors the night before.

There are 40 entries on the people who want to build scarecrow list and Tam is working on the Quiz and drawing up a route plan.

Ella's husband's company 'Sign It', are supplying two banners free of charge for the scarecrow event, and two more posters are going to be done by the school. It is hoped that one banner will go on the A512 near the George and Dragon, and the other one at the school until the event when it will be brought to The Green. It was agreed that the school's help had been tremendous.

Tam will contact Ruth Cliff from The Brownies about their involvement on the day.

The scarecrow event will be run from The Green, under a gazebo, where the quiz sheets will also be given out. At least one scarecrow will be by the tent to draw attention to the area. Nita will bring the tablecloth for the stand, and a bum bag and float. Tam will put up the gazebo, get table and chairs sorted and the quiz sheets. He is having a meeting with Nita to discuss the event in more detail next week.

There will a **History display** organised by Ann Petty. Geoff Walker will produce 25 DVD's for Ann to use on her stall, where she will also sell photos and booklets. She will liaise with Roy Hill over collecting these. Nita will provide her with a float and collect all monies at the end.

Nita went through her organiser's check list of things to be done and allocated responsibilities.

Ray Neal, Bernard Lee and Pam Porter are manning the **plant stall**. They have plants, but might need more, need a float and help with the gazebo set up and take down. It was agreed that having a gazebo would not create a problem for Lorraine, as there is nobody next to the plant stall with a gazebo.

Nita will again collect all monies at the end. Ray Neal may need a bum bag for his cash, and also needs carrier bags. He was concerned that people might have difficulty transporting plants back to their car if they were parked a long way away. It was agreed we would deal with that if and when it happens.

There was some discussion about the external stall holders needing to supply their own tables, chairs and gazebos. Ray Neal then arranged with the scouts that their tables would be made available. Lorraine will contact the scouts about this and arrange for tables to be available to all.



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Ron Hill and Janet apologised for being unable to help with the event on the day as they will be away but will do what they can to assist in the preparations.

NOTE - As the meeting finished, there was discussion about a **free kids disco** at the end of the centenary event. This will run from 5pm-6.30pm in the upstairs hall, so the event won't just end with people having looked round and going home but with a celebration, by young people, of the centre being at the heart of the village.

Tam is sourcing and booking the disco, Aileen will help with getting leaflets done and promoting where possible. Nita will also help with promoting this, and put something together for Lorraine on the disco, the scarecrow event and FoT for the programme that is being prepared.

Once the programme is prepared, Nita will run off all the copies required by FoT to help with the promotion.

AOB

Nita wished to thank Ron Hill for his help with supplying litter sticks.

The next litter pick will be on 25th June. There will be a sandwich picnic for the helpers.

Ron offered to deliver the Baubles for the Woodside Estate.

Future events

FoT are committed to the following fundraising events and **would appreciate any help from people willing to do a help man a stall as part of a rota -**

20 August - Thringstone Live for Charity at the George & Dragon – wine and water and probably cup cakes from Aileen

3rd September - Whitwick in the Park –bric a brac stall – time to be confirmed. Nita can't help with this as she is working that day.

September date to be confirmed – Snibston Miners Gala – wine and water

Next meeting will be 2nd June at 6.45pm at Thringstone House Community Centre.

This is the AGM. We have all the required nominations for the committee.

Subscriptions are now due at £3.50 for the year.

Thank you for your support thus far, and we hope you will continue to support our group.

Please give your money to Nita, or put it through her door, making sure it is in an envelope and saying who you are.